



Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Loving God with Heart, Soul, and Mind

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Winter and Spring Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities

We have a little something for
everyone this season

Traditions and Practices of Daily Prayer

At 9 o'clock on January 8, 15, 22, & 29, Jonathan Anderson will lead a course on the traditions and practices of daily prayer. This will be a rich exploration of a foundational spiritual practice. Whether you already have a daily prayer habit, or don't and just want to learn more, this class will be accessible and helpful to all.

Racial Equity Habit-Building Conversation

For the month of February, we'll be embracing a month-long racial equity habit-building challenge as a whole congregation. You can read more about a similar one here:

<https://21dayequitychallenge.com/21-day-original/>

At 9 o'clock, we'll have conversation about the things we've been learning. It will be a chance to process the information and challenges that will arise throughout the month. Facilitated by Sarah Windes and the Matthew 25 Advisory Team.

Streams of Living Water — Richard Foster

From March through May at 9 o'clock, we'll be studying Richard Foster's book *Streams of Living Water* with Pastor Sarah and Jonathan Anderson. Through an exploration of many different Christian approaches, this class will be a chance to consider where you came from spiritually and what speaks to you now. If you struggle with Christian baggage, this class will offer many avenues to reconstructing a spiritual practice that resonates with where you are now.

The Different Drum — M. Scott Peck

Starting February 5 and continuing throughout the season at 7pm on Sundays, Jack Call and Russell Gregory will be leading a study of *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace* by M. Scott Peck. Peck (author of *The Road Less Traveled*) draws on his personal spiritual journey, his training as a psychiatrist, and his Christian faith to describe true community and the process whereby community can be achieved.

Newsletter Deadlines: We look forward to your items for the newsletter. Please have all items submitted to Rhonda by the **15th of each month** for the upcoming month's issue. Items may be submitted by email to Rhonda at the following: rhonda@blacksburgpres.org.

Don't forget our newsletter is available on our website: <https://www.blacksburgpres.org/newsletter>

Prayer Concerns

Trusting in God's presence, grace, healing, and care, we pray . . .

- for the family of Dr. Richard S. Andrews of Florence, S.C., who passed away on December 13, 2022, after a long illness. Dick was the brother of Nancy Andrews and Steve Andrews, and the brother-in-law of Marcia Andrews.
- in gratitude, as a new year of Church School, Youth Group and Adult classes start back up, for those who led us in 2022 and those who will lead us in 2023 in Christian Education and Faith Formation.
- for Jan McGilliard, Bethany Brownfield, Stan and Janne Mathes, Nancy Alexander, Wilmoth O'Dell, Bill and Sally Foy, Raneé Lahn, and for those in the military: Luke Phillips, Eden Elizabeth Lawson, and Joel Hunter.
- in gratitude for the ministries of the Baby Shop and the Woodchucks. May those ministries spread God's compassion and care beyond just the material gifts of clothing, food and firewood.
- for those suffering from one of the many respiratory viruses now circulating and causing misery. Bring us healing and relief, and help us watch out for each other.
- for the women-led movement in Iran; we feel their pain and anger, and celebrate their courage, and that of those who stand with them. Help us to show solidarity.
- for those suffering from increasingly alarming effects of climate change and for all of us feeling dread about what is to come. Give us the courage and will to labor with hope as we act on opportunities to mitigate and reverse the ongoing climate crisis.
- for those on opposing sides of so many issues. Help us to honor each other's humanity and help us to both find ways to understand and love each other, and to protect and serve those who are vulnerable.
- for the people of Ukraine who are enduring continued invasion. We pray for the global community as they continue to seek a response to Russia's aggression and an end to war. We long for truth, peace, and solidarity, in Ukraine and the whole world.
- for Afghan, Ukrainian, and other refugees, and the people in our community and in other areas who work with them.
- for our partners and friends in CEDEPCA in Guatemala, and for our co-workers, Betsey and Eric Moe and their family in Guatemala.
- for the work of our mission co-worker partners in the Philippines, Cobbie Palm and Dessá Quesada-Palm.
- for our partners and friends in Malawi, working to meet health, educational and food-producing needs.
- for our Matthew 25 Advisory Team as they continue to seek ways to keep BPC engaged as a Matthew 25 congregation. Be with us as a congregation as we try to truly understand and respond with integrity to issues of racism.
- for those suffering from COVID and with disruptions from continued infections. We pray for equitable distribution of vaccines, tests, and treatments, and for continued understanding of how to cope with the persistence of the virus.
- for all those struggling to have enough to eat, to live in safety, to feel loved, and to have hope.

You can send prayer requests for Prayers of the People in Sunday worship and/or to be added to the website prayer list to Rhonda (rhonda@blacksburgpres.org).



To Our House
Sat., January 28 – Sat., February 4



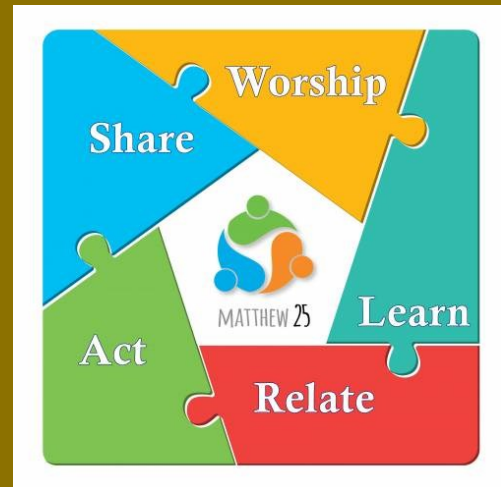
To Our House is a rotating shelter from November to March for people without housing. The week of January 28 to February 4 is when BPC will be hosting TOH in our Fellowship Hall.

Many volunteers are needed. Please sign up to spend the night, to be the person in charge, for dinners, lunch supplies, snacks, and breakfast supplies or for laundry. Snacks, lunch, and breakfast items can be delivered to BPC.

You can sign up via the posters in the Gathering Space or by using this SignUp Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45acae2ea02-toourhouse#/>

Please use the Eakin Street entrance during business hours and place items in the kitchen.



Coming in February:
A Month-Long Racial Equity Challenge

Our Matthew 25 emphasis on Dismantling Structural Racism will be our focus throughout the month of February as we join together as a congregation in a **Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge**. The idea is that each of us will choose one action per day to further our understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, suppression and equity. In our actions, we can read, listen, watch, notice, connect, engage, act, reflect or inspire! We can do these individually or as a household, as many times in the month as we are able.

We will provide you with a guide of suggested actions. We will also be holding some congregational actions throughout the month:

- Sunday, Feb. 12 after worship, we will have the opportunity to hear from Dan Thorp, associate professor of history at Virginia Tech, about his research on slavery and slave-holding in Montgomery County.
- Sunday, February 26, we will have an opportunity to take part in a Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation, with youth and adults together.
- We will offer a chance to take part in a self-guided Black History Tour of Montgomery County.
- In addition, every Sunday morning in February, anyone participating in the challenge may join with others at 9:00 am to discuss our learnings and report our progress and/or struggles. During worship, we will also hear more about the challenge, as well as stories of BPC's history related to civil rights.

We hope you will plan to join the challenge!

PW IS ENTERING A NEW YEAR - JOIN US!

Annual Meeting
February 5, 2023
3 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Bible Study Led by Sarah Wiles

All Women are Invited

Short Business Meeting
 Election and Installation of Leaders
 Fellowship – Refreshments

(Art: *Flowers* by Ekula Holmes)

Anti-Racist Practice Group

January 17th, February 21st, March 21st, and April 18th
7pm – 8:30pm on Zoom

Participating Congregations:
Blacksburg Presbyterian, Blacksburg Unitarian Universalist Congregation,
Blacksburg United Methodist Edges and Church St. campuses

Please register [here](#) the first time you attend.
There is no need to re-register for following sessions.

Dismantling white supremacy requires a commitment to honest, sometimes painful, self-reflection. Because we all struggle with unconscious bias, we benefit from opportunities to receive feedback and support as we seek to practice anti-racism. This deep, inner work requires a community of accountability where white folks can learn from our mistakes and gain experience in interrupting racism in ourselves and our organizations.

During these 90-minute workshops, we will explore new case studies that build on the learning from last year and that are appropriate for both first-time and previous participants. Alongside facilitators, participants will role-play possible micro-interventions and practice interrupting common examples of racism. As people of faith, these workshops present an opportunity to come together across our theological differences to seek healing, pursue justice, embrace accountability, and begin to repair what is broken in ourselves and our society. None of us can do this work alone. We need each other.

Because the work of anti-racism is always an ongoing process, we hope you'll plan to attend each of these gatherings, but even if you can only make it to one or two, we hope that you'll still join us as your schedule allows. After you register, in the days leading up to each workshop, you'll receive an email with the Zoom link and relevant workshop materials. However, no preparation is required prior to the meeting. We hope to see you there!

**Becoming Anti-Racist
is a Spiritual Practice.**



Welcome to Our New Livestream Tech!

Luke Clark has joined our team and is working on our livestream every week. This is such an important ministry for reaching newcomers, as well as nurturing community with members who are ill or traveling.

Thank you, Luke!

The Shear Endowment for Peacemaking and Peace Education

Back in the 1980's, there was a couple whose names were Myron and Olalla Shear who had been active members at BPC and had held positions of leadership since the 1930's. They cared especially about making a more just and peaceful world, and valued the power of education in strengthening people's commitment and ability to practice peacemaking.

After Olalla Shear died in 1983, Myron decided to make a memorial gift to the church in her memory. He established an endowment fund to respond to the PC(USA)'s call to practice peacemaking at all levels, in our personal lives, in families, in the community, nation and world. On April 5, 1987, the Myron and Olalla Shear Endowment for Peacemaking and Peace Education was established. Myron's initial gift was \$5000, and by his death in 1990, the fund had grown to more than \$50,000!

Over the intervening 35 years, shepherded by a Shear Fund Committee, the proceeds from the Shear Fund have been used:

- to provide programs of education on peacemaking,
- to enhance leadership development by enabling persons to participate in various events, dialogues, study and conferences,
- to assist in providing public occasions whereby a Christian witness for peacemaking can be made either alone or in concert with people of other faiths and goodwill, and
- in general support of any activities advocated by our denomination and supported by the Session of the church (an example is support of scholarships to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference which was held for many years at Montreat).

There are many ways you can become engaged in the work of the Shear Fund:

1. The Shear Fund Committee has recently lost many of its dedicated members, and is in need of more members as it begins a new season of work, post-pandemic. Please contact one of the following people to find out more or to volunteer: Sarah Wiles (pastorsarah@blacksburgpres.org), Sarah Windes (sarah@blacksburgpres.org), Forrest Thye or Melanie Smith.
2. If you are aware of a project, trip, program or event that would make good use of Shear funds in peacemaking or peace education, please contact one of the above persons.
3. If you would like to contribute to the fund, just make a check out to BPC and mark it for the Shear Fund.
4. The Shear Fund will be providing scholarships for the April trip to Guatemala to visit with CEDEPCA, as described on page 6. Contact Sandy Schlaudecker (cheesemaker72@gmail.com) if you would be interested in this travel and learning opportunity!



**2023
DAY FOR
ALL PEOPLE**



The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is hosting their big advocacy day, a Day for All People, on January 18. This is a great opportunity to learn about justice and make a difference in our laws!

Join us at Centenary United Methodist Church, 411 East Grace St., Richmond, Virginia, to meet with legislators about limiting solitary confinement, increasing affordable housing,

and other important issues. (If you are unable to attend in-person, there will be a virtual option to participate in the plenary sessions.)

Contact Rachel Parson at rachel.parson@gmail.com or Melanie Smith at melscofam@gmail.com to find out what it's like!

The [2023 Day for All People](#) will start at 8:30am and go until 3pm. The cost is \$40. Find out more information and register [here](#).

Find out about catching a free van ride from Hotel Roanoke at 6:00 am that day by emailing Melanie Smith at melscofam@gmail.com.



Will you consider joining a trip to Guatemala? by Sandy Schlaudecker

A couple of years ago, my husband, Jim, and I decided we wanted to learn more about Guatemala and CEDEPCA (The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America, based in Guatemala City), so we traveled to Guatemala City with a group from Peaks and The James Presbyteries. What a trip it was! We visited different small businesses that were helped by micro-grants. We spoke with a guild of women weavers who had banded together after losing their husbands due to the civil war, and we bought beautifully woven scarves and blouses from them. We had dinner at a cooking school that was teaching young people a way to earn a living instead of joining a gang. We saw a woman who made tortillas and another who ran a bakery. This was not a vacation but an education. *(Photo, left: Jim Schlaudecker visiting with children at weavers co-op)*



We traveled to Antigua, where we stayed in a very nice hotel, complete with a delicious breakfast. All meals were included and vetted, so that none of us got sick. CEDEPCA took care of us at every turn. The CEDEPCA associates that accompanied us spoke English. One had lived in the United States before returning to Guatemala. We visited an immigration site, where travelers both going to and returning from the US could get a hot meal and a safe place to sleep on a temporary basis. We learned why they were traveling, in both directions. It was a heart-tugging experience. We also visited a church-sponsored school where we were entertained with song (including *Baby Shark*) and had a nice meal, prepared by students. *(Photo, left: Kite flying in a cemetery for the Day of the Dead)*

Peaks and The James are taking another trip in April, the first one since our trip before the pandemic! Scholarship (up to 100%) is available to anyone who would like to learn more about what CEDEPCA does and how Guatemalans live. I highly recommend expanding your circle of knowledge about both. It is a trip I hope to make again, soon!

Now is the time to start planning and to sign up, as April is approaching! See the flyer below and contact Sandy at cheesemaker72@gmail.com ASAP.

**"At CEDEPCA we believe it is impossible to transform Guatemala in one week,
but in one week Guatemala will transform you."**

Dates to Remember

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Sarah Windes
- 3: Skip Jubb
- 4: Sara Hunter, Evelyn Wolf
- 5: Eliza Ruth Hunter
- 8: Zoë Wiles, Isaac Wiles
- 10: Mark Hutchins
- 11: Clara Corl
- 12: Ellen Oliver
- 13: Nataleigh Pienkowski
- 14: John Perumpral
- 17: Linda Harvey
- 18: Rachel Parson
- 19: Pamela Turner
- 22: Alice Ledford, Susan Osborne
- 23: Bill Henika
- 24: Barbara McKenzie
- 25: Christopher Lawrence, Winnie Myers, Emma Rakes, Mary Ann Bowling
- 26: Judith Jones, Brandy Salmon
- 27: Joseph Childers
- 28: Heather Lawrence
- 29: Lewis Barnett
- 30: Lilia Bundren, Julie Burger



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Ariana Wyatt
- 5: Luke Rakes
- 6: Daniel Stahl
- 7: Sophia Thompson
- 8: Holly McFall
- 9: Brynn Stewart
- 12: Barbara Michelsen
- 13: Nettie Stewart, Paula Stith, Henry Wyatt
- 18: Ben Corl
- 20: Steve Grieco, Ryan Stewart
- 21: Jennifer Stewart, Claire White
- 23: Charles Wyatt
- 25: Leif Anderson, Marcia Andrews



The building is now open during work hours.
Signing in is still required of everyone. Masks are optional.
Some meetings are in person and some are virtual.
Please hold each other in prayer and continue to look out for one another.
Say healthy, safe, and kind.

BPC's Calendar

JANUARY 2023 — Recurring Meetings:

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 10:30 a.m., HCR
Deacons meeting, second Monday at 12:00 p.m., Zoom.
Knitwits, fourth Monday at 1:00 p.m., WM
- Tuesday:** Worship Planning Team, 10:30 a.m., HCR
BPC Quilters, 9:30 p.m., FH
- Wednesday:** Helping Neighbors by phone
- Sunday:** Sunday School for youth and children, 9:00. Contact Susan at susanh@blacksburgpres.org.
Adult Ed: Contact adulted@blacksburgpres.org.
Youth Group, 5:30-7:30 pm, FH
Session meeting—January 29, 7:00 pm, HCR (usually meets third Sunday of the month)

Presbyterian Women Circles — upcoming meetings:



- Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting: 02/05, 3:00-5:00 pm., FH (see page 3 for info)
- Faith Circle: 01/26, 7:30-9:00 pm, TBA
- Hildegard Circle: 02/13, 7:00 pm, Zoom
- Lydia Circle: 03/06, 1:30-3:00 pm, FH

Youth Calendar for January:



- 01/15, 5:30-7:30 pm: Dinner and justice-themed discussion, FH
- 01/22, 5:30-7:30 pm: Dinner & discussion, FH
- 01/29, 5:30-7:30 pm: TBA

Please remember to contact the church office in advance to schedule room use and avoid conflicts.

Meeting Room Key: HCR—Hatcher Conference Room, FH—Fellowship Hall, WM—Westminster Hall,
SNC—Sanctuary, GS—Gathering Space

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
701 CHURCH ST SE
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060-5213

*change service requested

BPC offers both in-person and livestream worship services with both beginning at 10:30. You can access the livestream via BPC's [YouTube channel](#).

Bookmark the page for easy access. The video will be available after Sunday worship if you missed the live service.

Subscribe to BPC emails today!

To join the email list, click [here](#) or contact Rhonda at rhonda@blacksburgpres.org.

Check out our website, www.blacksburgpres.org, for more information about BPC and church activities.

BLACKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
*A Vibrant Congregation of
Welcome, Worship, and Outreach*

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Dr. Larry Wyatt, Director of Music: larry@blacksburgpres.org

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amanda@blacksburgpres.org

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